

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 NSCE-00 IO-10 /096 W

----- 114547

R 201000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, CH

SUBJECT: REPORTED SINO-BANGALEE TRADE TIES

1. ACCORDING TO DACCA PRESS OF MAY 20, TRADE TIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE PRC. PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT DURING A RECENT TEN-DAY VISIT BY A FOUR-MEMBER BANGALEE TRADE DELEGATION TO CANTON, FOUR "CONTRACTS" WERE SIGNED COVERING TRADE IN UNSPECIFIED COMMODITIES. THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE MOHAMMED IDRIS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CHITTAGONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, A.K.M. MUSA, FORMER CIVIL SERVANT NOW IN BUSINESS, LUTFAR RAHMAN, LEADING JUTE BUSINESSMAN, AND ENAM AHMED CHOWDHURY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU.

2. COMMENT: BDG WILL WELCOME TRADE TIES WITH PRC AS A RENEWED MARKET FOR ITS DEPRESSED JUTE INDUSTRY AND AS A SOURCE OF IMPORTED GOODS. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO CON-

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SIDER THAT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF "CONTRACTS" CLEARLY

OUTWEIGHS THEIR ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE. BANGALEES HAVE LONG
SOUGHT CLOSER TIES WITH CHINESE AS OFFSET TO INDIA AND
IN HOPES PEKING CAN PERSUADE PAKISTAN TO GREATER
AMENABILITY RE DIVISION OF ASSETS AND REPATRIATION OF
NATIONALS. ALTHOUGH PRC MADE FLOOD RELIEF CONTRIBUTION
LAST FALL, THIS IS FIRST CONCRETE ACTION WHICH SUGGESTS
BANGLADESH AND PRC ARE MOVING CLOSER TO FORMAL TIES, AND
THUS WILL BE PARTICULARLY WELCOME BY BDG.
BOSTER

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